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THE NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION

PROGRAM AID 1158

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
NATIONAL ARBORETUM
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002
OCTOBER 1976

NATIONAL BONSAI COLLECTION BICENTENNIAL GIFT OF THE NIPPON BONSAI ASSOCIATION

Bonsai number	Common name Botanical name	Japanese name	Age of plant Years in training
1	Japanese Black Pine Pinus thunbergii	Kuro-matsu	200 80
2	Japanese White Pine Pinus parviflora	Goyo-matsu	350 350
;}	Japanese White Pine Pinus parviflora	Goyo-matsu	120 120
4	Japanese White Pine Pinus parviflora	Goyo-matsu	120 50
ō	Yezo Spruce Picea glehnii	Ezo-matsu	170 50
6	Yezo Spruce Picea glehnii	Ezo-matsu	120 40
7	Japanese Cypress Chamaecyparis obtusa	Hinoki	130 100
8	Japanese Yew Taxus cuspidata	Ichii	150 50
9	Needle Juniper Juniperus rigida	Toshyo	250 50
1()	Needle Juniper Juniperus rigida	Toshyo	100 30
11	Japanese Cedar Cryptomeria japonica	Sugi	70 70
12	Thorny Elaeagnus Elaeagnus pungens	Gumi	150 150
13	Japanese White Pine Pinus parviflora Hornbeam Carpinus laxiflora Japanese Beech Fagus crenata	Goyo-matsu	80 40
		Soro Buna	
14	Sargent Juniper Juniperus chinensis var. sargentii	Shinpaku	250 70
15	Japanese Wisteria Wisteria floribunda	Fuji	100
16	Japanese Zelkova Zelkova serrata	Keyaki	80 80
17	Japanese Elm Ulmus davidiana var. japonica	Nire-keyaki	70
		(Aki-nire)	70
18	Summer Camellia Stewartia	Natsutsubaki	120 50
19	pseudocamellia Hall Crab Apple Malus halliana	Shidare-kaido	7() 70

The National Bonsai Collection is located in the Japanese Garden and Viewing Pavilion on Meadow Road just east of the Administration Building.

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	37	_	Kaede	60 60
- Saru O	38	Loropetalum chinense Loropetalum chinense	Tokiwaman- saku	60 60

39	Nippon Hawthorn Crataegus cuneata	Sanzashi	80 80		
4()	Japanese Maple Acer palmatum	Momiji	70 70		
41	Japanese Maple Acer palmatum	Momiji	30 30		
42	Satsuki Azalea Rhododendron indicum	Satsuki	150 150		
43	Satsuki Azalea Rhododendron indicum	Satsuki (Izayoi)	7() 7()		
44	Satsuki Azalea Rhododendron indicum	Satsuki (Hakatashiro)	60 60		
45	Satsuki Azalea Rhododendron indicum	Satsuki (Shio)	15() 150		
46	Satsuki Azalea Rhododendron indicum	Satsuki (Kaho)	50 50		
47	Japanese Beech Fagus crenata	Buna -	50 20		
48	Camellia Camellia japonica	Tsubaki	60 60		
49	Japanese Black Pine Pinus thunbergii	Kuro-matsu	70 70		
50	Japanese Maple Acer palmatum	Momiji	30 30		
51	Japanese Hemlock Tsuga diversifolia	Kometsuga	100 50		
52	Trident Maple Acer buergerianum	Kaede	80 80		
53	Japanese Red Pine Pinus densiflora	Aka-matsu	180 180		
VIEWING STONES					
A	Chrysanthemum Stone	Kikkaseki			
В	Saji River, Puddle Stone	Sajigawa-Mizut	amari-ishi		
('	Ibi River, Mountain Shaped Stone	lbigawa-Yamagata-ishi			
1)	Noble Boat Mountain Stream Stone	Kifune-keiryu-seki			
Е	Quiet Mountain Stone	Seigakuseki			
] ²	Mt. Hakkai, Mountain Shaped Stone	Hakkaisan-Yamagata-ishi			



Japan is a land of rugged mountains, green hillsides, sparkling coastlines, and island-studded inland seas. To bring such natural beauty nearer to their homes, the Japanese people for many centuries have perfected techniques for duplicating nature in many art forms. In their gardens, the Japanese arrange plants, bonsai, and stones to give the impression of a natural landscape. However, the landscape is purposely left incomplete. Even the most perceptive observer must use a certain amount of mental agility to personally perfect the finished work.

The Japanese garden complex at the U.S. National Arboretum was developed to provide an appropriate environmental setting for the magnificent National Bonsai Collection, a gift of the Japanese people to the American people in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the United States. The 53 bonsai, assembled by the Nippon Bonsai Association, range from 30 to 350 years of age and number 34 different species. Many come from the private collections of well-known citizens of Japan. One, a 180-year-old Japanese Red Pine, comes from the Imperial Household, and represents the first time a bonsai from the Imperial Collection has left the country.

The complex will also house six unique viewing stones that are part of the Bicentennial gift from Japan. The same love for natural form expressed in bonsai is also found in *suiseki*, or stone viewing. The stones on display are outstanding examples of this art. Stones such as these provide the collector with a natural landscape for contemplating the harmony and beauty of all of nature.

The principal architect of the garden complex, Masao Kinoshita of Sasaki Associates, Watertown, Massachusetts, has provided through his design an American interpretation of Japanese concepts of gardening and architecture.

Future additions to this garden structure will encourage a feeling of gradual transition from a western to an oriental world. Japanese lanterns flanking a ceremonial gate will lead to a dark mystic forest of Cryptomeria. A walkway will "float" atop a pool graced by brilliantly colored Japanese Koi. At the end of the walkway is a reception court with a bubbling fountain to symbolize the cleansing of the body and soul.

Other additions to the complex will include a viewing pavilion for exhibiting select bonsai, for performing the tea ceremony, and for displaying Ikebana flower arrangements and calligraphy. An addition to the administration building is also planned to accommodate a bonsai workroom, classroom, and office.

Plants are the living part of the garden and provide seasonal changes of beauty. Japanese Black Pines merge into the backbone of the garden as they ascend, symbolically, toward infinity. Trunks and branches of Japanese Red Maple, flowering cherry, and crape myrtle form the edge of the garden and arch over the walkway to make a delicate canopy. As in Japanese flower arrangements, where the branch arches over the fragile flower to symbolize protection, the overhead branches in the garden protect the fragile human. Every effort is made to blend color, habit, texture, and seasonal interest of all plant material in the garden.

Most of the plants in the garden are represented in miniature in the National Bonsai Collection. Many species were originally brought from Japan into the United States by plant explorers from the Department of Agriculture.

Stones create a foundation of strength and stability and add weight to the fragile appearance of the garden. The consistency of the stone is hard and symbolizes an eternal, never-changing base of truth, faith, and life. Plants, water, and earth are aesthetically blended together by the skillful placement of stones.

Quiet reflective water in a pond introduces a sense of repose, remote from the outer world. The slightest breeze brings the water alive with a variety of subtle patterns. Water denotes coolness, refreshment, and purification.

A narrow stone path requires visitors to walk single file through parts of the garden to create intimate contact with nature. Each curve presents a new view and excites interest in what may lie ahead. Three parts of the walkway widen to present several bonsai. Stone lanterns call attention to obstacles and turning points along the walkway as they lead one to a peaceful harbor of scenic beauty. A Japanese decorative stone basin at the entrance provides rain water for the bonsai plants.

At the end of the garden path, just inside the gate of the bonsai shelter, rests the great Japanese Red Pine from the Imperial Household. The bonsai shelter provides permanent housing for the National Bonsai Collection.

The formal presentation of the bonsai to the United States was made in Tokyo, Japan, on March 20, 1975, by Mr. Nobusuke Kishi, ex-Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Nippon Bonsai Association. The Honorable James D. Hodgson, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, received the gift. After a quarantine period at the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, the collection was transferred to its permanent home at the National Arboretum.

